

# Learn more about adoption, foster parenting at informal meeting

Have you been thinking about adoption, but weren't sure where to start?

Would you like to help a child, but can't make a permanent commitment?

Now you can learn more about adopting a child or be-

coming a foster parent through DHS Child Welfare. An informal meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14, to answer questions about adoption and foster care. The meeting will be held in Conference Room A of the State Office Complex, 500

N Hwy. 30, St. Helens, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Both adoptive and foster families will be available to answer questions about their experiences.

Who can become an adoptive or a foster parent?

- Single, married, or di-

vorced people of all ages, lifestyles, religions, ethnicities, and incomes.

- People who live in houses or apartments.

- People who have not been convicted of a violent crime or a crime against a child.

- People who are flexible, energetic, and able to care for a child.

- People who work inside or outside their home.

- People who are open to learning new things.

On any given day, there are between 300 and 350 children in Oregon waiting for an adop-

tive family. In Columbia County alone, more than 80 children are in substitute care, some will return to their families and some will need adoptive families.

Call Sandy McMillan at 800-428-2546, ext. 308, if you have questions about adoption, or Gail Mitchell at 800-428-2546, ext. 317, with questions about foster care.

*May 2004 be filled with Joy and Laughter*



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